



Lord, Help My Faith

What do you consider to be the most valuable thing in your life? What is your most valuable personal quality? If you had to finish this sentence, "the most important thing that I possess is..." what would it be?

The Set Up..

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NASB) 1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.

Four Motivations to Keep Going..

1) Consider the WITNESSES.

- First word is "therefore." Therefore, points backwards. In this case, it points to the list in Hebrews 11. People who risked it all on God and His promises.
- These were people just like us. They didn't have it all figured out. They had doubts, asked questions and were stretching and growing.
- These witnesses are like people in a marathon who started before us and now stand along the sides as we run, telling us keep going, it's worth it, you'll make it.

2) Fix YOUR EYES on Jesus.

In Greek "look" is "look away", as in, look at it off in the distance. It's not something you look at God doing now, but you look out of your pain and out of your darkness.

Looking to...

- **HIS PROMISE:** Verse 2a, "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter (or completer) of our faith!"
- **HIS EXPERIENCE:** Verse 3, "consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself," so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

The cross shows us that He is committed to seeing this all through. The resurrection shows us that He is able to see it through. The cross shows you that the pain you are

experiencing now is to be expected, but don't lose heart, God only brings the power of the resurrection through the pain of the cross. DON'T GIVE UP!

Looking to move forward...

- Focus on God's power rather than on the size of the problem. Trust in God's plan even when it doesn't make sense. Recognize the extraordinary ways God is working in ordinary situations in your life. Pursue holiness. Surround yourself with people shooting for the same goal. Take one step at a time.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Additional Notes:

scriptures that relate

Monday: Hebrews 10	Wednesday: Hebrews 12	Friday: Psalm 46
Tuesday: Hebrews 11	Thursday: Hebrews 13	Saturday: Psalm 47

small groups—talk it over

1. Who are some of the great biblical witnesses you look to for help and support?
2. Who are some of the giant witnesses, in your life on this earth, that cheer you on?
3. Where do you fix your eyes when life gets hard?
4. When you think about what Christ has done for you, how does that give you perspective in your own life?
5. What kind of message does the cross send to you?

pastor david's prayer requests

Monday: Praise the Lord for another day! Each day is a gift that only He can give.

Tuesday: Pray for the Lord's mercy in Hawaii and Guatemala as they have been hit with natural disasters.

Wednesday: Pray comfort for those in our church battling cancer or other serious illnesses.

Thursday: Remember the homeless. This is a growing concern in our community and beyond.

Friday: Pray for fathers to take the spiritual lead the Lord commanded us within our families.

Saturday: Pray for our country and its leaders. The Lord continues to show us grace and mercy.